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Yvonne Farley

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WEST VIRGINIA

LIBRARIES

SPECIAL COLLECTION

March 1991

Vol. 44 No. 1

COONTS INSPIRED BY LIBRARIES

Best-selling author Stephen Coonts told a large crowd assembled at the Charleston Civic Center on February 25th for Library Appreciation Day that reading played a role in preparing him to become an author.

The Buckhannon native said that in the fourth grade he read everything on the shelf in his classroom library. "Libraries expand the minds and horizons of everyone who walks through their doors. They spread the chorus of human

experience," he said.

Coonts is the author of *Flight of the Intruder*, *Final Flight*, *The Minotaur* and *Under Siege*. A graduate of West Virginia University, he served as a Navy pilot in Vietnam and began writing after his divorce. He recounted the story of his success in a warm and witty manner.

Governor Caperton promised to restore \$230,000 to the state library budget.



Photo by Jim Noelke of the *Charleston Gazette*
Bestselling author and Buchannon native Stephen Coonts addressed over 1000 library supporters at the 1991 Library Appreciation Day Dinner at the Charleston Civic Center.

**READ
SUCCEED**
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 14-20, 1991
American Library Association

"Read, Succeed!" has been chosen as the theme for 1991's Year of the Lifetime Reader Campaign sponsored by the American Library Association and the West Virginia Library Association.

All new readers and writers throughout the state are invited to participate in a writing contest which will focus on the joy of reading and the national theme. First, second and third prizes will be awarded for winning entries in any style of writing in two categories: youth (ages 6-17) and adult. For a list of rules and an entry form, write to: National Library Week Contest Committee, Pamela Makricosta, Administrator, 3445 Orchard St., Weirton, WV 26062. The deadline for the contest is March 25, 1991.

CHILDREN'S LIT CONFERENCE HELD

"A Revolution in Children's Literature", a three day conference on children's literature, was held in late February at Beckley's Ramada Inn.

The conference featured programs such as "Poetry Alive", storytelling, gender roles in children's literature, creative writing, and appearances by children's authors.

Judy Wallen, children's librarian at the Raleigh County Public Library and Karen Vuranch, director of the Southern West Virginia Youth Museum were co-coordinators for the conference. Financial support was given by the West Virginia Humanities Council and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. The West Virginia Library Association was among those groups which endorsed the conference.

Featured writers included Marc Harshman, teacher and author; Jean Fritz, author of historical books for children; Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard, former librarian and author; Colleen

O'Shaughnessy, Pittsburgh author; Anna Smucker, author and former Clarksburg librarian; Karen Williams, author; and Beverly Major, author from Marietta, Ohio.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Shortly after December 1st, Judy Rule asked me what I hoped to accomplish during my year as President of WVLA. I quickly answered "Pay Equity". Now I am not naive enough to think that I can accomplish pay equity in West Virginia's libraries, but I do think I can make people aware of what seems to me to be a way to address the inequities that now exist in paying library staff and librarians. ALA has information available on several different approaches, and a method that has been used in Minnesota deserves our attention. But more about that later in the year.

The Executive Board met at North Bend State Park on December 12 and conducted what is possibly one of the shortest meetings in the history of the Association. The planning meeting held on the previous day may have addressed the topics normally discussed in Executive Board, or the members may have simply been worn out from staying awake into the early hours of the morning waiting for an interview with the Finance Committee. Whatever the reason, no one complained.

As determined in the planning meeting, the general consensus is that regional workshops are valuable, but there is a need in some sections for a section workshop as well. Therefore, the plan is to hold four regional workshops... Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest... and some sections will hold meetings in addition to the regional meeting. A program planning session will take place soon and dates and locations will be announced when available. If you would like to help with the regional meeting in your area, please call me at 757-7308.

IMPORTANT: The revision of the Constitution and Bylaws allows for the formation of Roundtables for any interest group. WVLAN and Directors have already made application to the Executive Board....Paraprofessional/Staff and Children's are expected. For more information contact Tom Brown at Concord College for assistance or advice. Tom has consented to guide us through the transition from the old constitution to the new one.

As President of this Association, I attend the Southeastern Library Association Conference in Nashville in early December. Of par-

ticular interest was their method for presenting awards...they published them in a booklet that was in place on the tables at the awards luncheon. How do you feel about that? We could still retain the element of surprise and yet background information could be printed in the awards booklet in-

stead of presented as part of the program. Many of you have complained about the length of the awards program...this would address that situation. Overall, the SELA conference was well done. I appreciate having had the opportunity to attend.

Peggy Bias President, WVLA

WVLA 1991 Committee Appointments

Auditing

1. Donna Lewis - Chair
2. Margaret Smith
3. Chuck Julian

Conference

1. Pam Ford, Chair
2. Margie Price, Exhibits
3. Karen Goff, Exhibits
4. Karen Philippi, Reg.
5. Judy Duncan, Reg.
6. Kelly Croy, Local Arr.
7. Cathy Lee, Local Arr.
8. Myra Ziegler, Local Arr.
9. J. D. Waggoner, Publicity
10. Trish Del Nero, Publicity
11. Beth Nicholson, Publicity
12. Beulah Salyers, Meals & Bev.

Constitution and Bylaws

1. Karen Goff, Chair
2. Josephine Fidler
3. Judy Rule
4. Ellen Wilkerson
5. Tom Brown, Transition

Continuing Education

1. Tom Brown, Chair
2. Trish Del Nero
3. Judy Duncan
4. Rick Druggish
5. Beth Nicholson

Elections

1. Steve Christo, Chair
2. Karen Philippi
3. Betty Thompson

Finance

1. R. David Childers
2. Peggy Bias
3. Betty Thompson

Handbook

1. Karen Goff, Chair
2. Steve Christo
3. Rebecca Van Der Meer
4. Bridget Herndon

Intellectual Freedom

1. Matt Onion, Chair (P) 91
2. Kimberly Crawford (Sp) 92
3. Yvonne Farley (P) 92
4. Linda Wright (P) 91
5. William Utz (C&U) 93
6. Sue Wright (T) 91
7. Kay Bailey (Sc) 94

Legislative

Term ending 11/30/91

1. Linda Wright
2. Linda Baker
3. Susan Vidovich (Leg Dinner)

Term ending 11/30/92

4. Mary Gasiorowski
5. Judy Rule, Chair
6. Nancy Moore
7. Betty Gunnoe (Fed Rel Coor)
8. Edwin Rauh

Term ending 11/30/93

9. Fred Glazer
10. Rick Rekowski
11. Chuck Julian (C&U)
12. Linda Taft (School)

Marketing

1. Beulah Salyer, Chair
2. Linda Brumfield

Membership

1. Matt Onion, Chair
- To be announced

National Library Week

1. Pam Markricosta, Chair
2. Jane Kraina

Nominations

1. Lois Thompson, Chair
2. J.D. Waggoner
3. Joe Brown

Public Relations

1. Matt Onion
2. Pam Markricosta
3. Jane Kraina

Resolutions and Awards

1. Rebecca Van Der Meer, Chair
2. Pam Ford, 1st Vice-president
3. Yvonne Farley, Editor,

WV Libraries

Teller Committee

1. Margie Price, Chair
2. Mary Lou Pratt
3. Betty Hamilton

MARLF Representative

1. Ernie Kallay, Chair
2. David Nathanson
3. Carolyn Watson

West Virginia Libraries

1. Yvonne Farley, Editor

West Virginia Libraries

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A subscription to **West Virginia Libraries** is included with membership dues. The subscription rate for non-members is \$15.00 per year. Some back issues are available at \$3.75 per issue. All back issues are available from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Photographs submitted should be black and white, although color will be accepted.

New notes should be sent to the **Editor**.

Advertising correspondence should be sent to the **Advertising Editor**.

Change of address should be sent to the **Circulation Editor**.

Subscriptions should be sent to the **Circulation Editor**.

Deadline for materials: March 15, 1991; May 15, 1991; July 15, 1991; September 15, 1991; October 15, 1991.

EDITOR'S WORDS

It seems as if January has been the month to dodge the Scud missiles of budget cutting on every level. There was the annual fight to retain per capita state aid, even though an increase was needed — especially by those counties who might be facing losses because of the 1990 census.

We heard of proposed federal budget cuts from Washington in the middle of our state fight. And, for many librarians there were local budget reduction problems. Right here in St. Albans we had to round up library supporters and go to City Council to get the funding we need from them. It was enough to turn our hair gray. As we who work in libraries know, the demand for library service has not decreased. That's the problem. Most of us feel that we're being asked to do more and more with less and less.

Library Appreciation Day was a positive moment amid all of the bad news. The Governor and legislative officials were friendly to us in a year when all public services are taking heavy hits. Some of our proposed legislation may make it.

The article about West Virginia libraries in the *Wall Street Journal* certainly drew attention to problems of rural libraries and came at an appropriate time.

As I see it, all libraries are becoming endangered species: academic, school, public and special — urban and rural. It's at times like this that we should be talking with our patrons and the public about what is happening.

The truth is that there are many who still do not know what libraries do. That is our fault. We need to let people know that the money they contribute to support libraries is money invested in the education and future of this state.

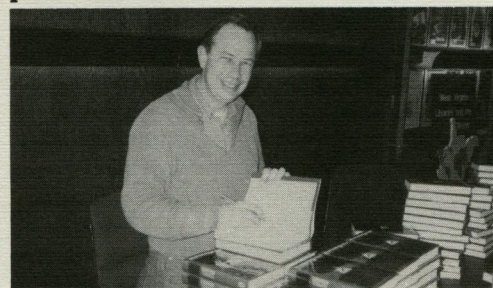
Finally, I would like to say that WVLA has been a vehicle for improving the status of libraries and librarians in this state. There is no other organization which works on the issues for all libraries and librarians. That's why if you care about libraries, you will stay active and encourage others to join WVLA.

Yvonne Farley, Editor

Appreciation Day Scenes



Governor Caperton and First Lady Rachael Worby chat with Library Commissioner Fred Glazer and legislator Bill Proudfoot (left) of Randolph County during the social hour prior to the dinner.



West Virginia Author Stephen Coonts autographs his way through a stack of his best sellers.



West Virginia's vivacious First Lady has an animated conversation with author Stephen Coonts and Fred Glazer.



Stephen Coonts autographs a copy of his book for literacy student Cindy Persinger of Monroe County.



A lively crowd from the state library commission enjoys the dinner.

Round Table, Anyone?

By Tom Brown

Why can't Government Documents librarians meet and discuss common issues? After all, they're not all college librarians? Why can't those who teach children's literature meet with those who have children's programs in public libraries, and why can't elementary school librarians meet with this group, too. And why can't those of us in all kinds of libraries in the Eastern Panhandle meet to work on library development — after all, there aren't very many librarians of libraries other than public?

The answer is, of course — and now —, that you can. There have been instances in the past when the division structure of WVLA has kept people of some like concerns from meeting together. Administrators of several kinds of libraries might well have more in common with each other than they do with technical librarians in their own type of library. The new WVLA constitution which you approved at the October conference in Charleston allows for a structure of roundtables.

Any group of twenty WVLA members can petition the establishment of a roundtable centered about their own interest. Already the library automation librarians have petitioned for a roundtable status, as have library administrators. It is likely that those who deal with Government Documents, and members of the non-professional staffs of our libraries will also petition for that status.

Why would they want to do this? This will give librarians (and others) interested in a specific aspect of libraries a chance to work together on a common goal. Thus, if a group of school librarians in a county wanted to work within WVLA, but yet wanted to meet regularly on school library development issues in their own county they could do so. Such a group might not be able to get to the WVLA meetings, but would like to have some influence on what WVLA does and says in regard to school libraries.

Other groups which might be interested could be (1) technical services librarians, (2) audio-visual librarians/production personnel, (3) librarians who all work within a given geographical area, or (3a) librarians, support personnel, trustees, friends who all work within a given geographical area.

Once the group decides that roundtable status is desired, a brief statement of purpose should be formulated, and the signatures of at least twenty active Association

members sought on a petition. This is sent to the Executive Board for action. Roundtables elect a chairperson and a chairperson-elect. All Roundtables together have a representative on the Executive Board whom they have jointly elected.

This is a special opportunity we have, an example of the flexibility our constitution allows us. If you would like to discuss this with someone, try Tom Brown at 348-5366 Monday afternoons, Thursdays or Fridays.



African Folklore Presented At Hampton County Public Library

The Hampshire County Public Library offered a special program, "Bringing the Children to the Library", during the month of January. Over eighteen classes had the opportunity to attend a program of African Folklore featuring Raamiah Abdel Rahim-El and his wife Adonalijah Bey Abdel Rahim-El.

Wearing ethnic costumes, the couple acted out stories for the classes which portrayed the culture and history of an African village. Each story ended with a moral lesson that the children could apply to everyday life. In addition to the storytelling, African games, singing, dancing and drumming were featured during the program.

Libraries wishing to contact the performers may do so by writing: P. O. Box 338, Augusta, W.V. 26104

Mr. and Mrs. Abdel Rahim-El are newcomers to Hampshire County and have been active with the efforts of the Literacy Council besides donating their time and talents to the library.

by Brenda Riffle, Librarian

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 1991-92 BOARD MEMBERS

NAME & BOARD POSITION	MAILING ADDRESS	HOME ADDRESS
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Chris Hatten Chair, Special Libraries Section	Huntington Museum of Art 2033 McCoy Road Huntington 25701 529-2701 office	Route 1, Box 328 C Prichard, 25555 486-5341
Sharon Twentier Friends Group	211 West Va. Ave. Nutter Fort 26301 623-7674	Same
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Judy Rule, ALA Councilor	Cabell County Library 455 Ninth St. Plaza Huntington 25071 523-9451 office 522-4721 fax	5413 Lake Bonita Road Catlettsburg KY 41129 606-739-6074
Ernest R. Kallay, Jr. MARLF Representative	Clarksburg-Harrison Library 404 W. Pike Street Clarksburg, 26301 624-6512 office 624-4411 fax	225 Blackwell Street Bridgeport 26330 842-7320
Karen Goff, SELA Representative	Reference Library W.V. Lib. Commission Cultural Center Charleston 25305 348-2029 office 348-2044 fax	Route 2, Box 317 A Charleston, 25314 344-9015
Yvonne Farley, Editor, W.V. Libraries	P.O. Box 12 St. Albans 25177 722-7244 office	Same 727-3011

VTLS Inc.

Looks Back at 1990, Sets Goals for 1991

Several software products and services developed by VTLS Inc. in 1990 have given the VTLS Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) a new appeal and versatility. First, the Intelligent Workstation (VTLS-IW), a microcomputer-based front end to the OPAC, and the VTLS InfoStation (VTLS-IS), a multimedia information access system, both provide a powerful and user-friendly environment for online catalog searching and retrieval of data. Another product, the VTLS Remote Interface Manager (VTLS-RIM), provides access to data published on CD-ROMs and allows VTLS users to connect directly to the OCLC network and search the OCLC Online Union Catalog. Further, agreements with The H.W. Wilson Company, Information Access Company (IAC) and UMI/Data Courier now allow VTLS patrons unlimited direct access to those companies' indexes stored in locally-mounted data bases. Finally, the new VTLS Journal Indexing subsystem allows librarians to create indexing records for publications and allows patrons to search an indexing data base for indexed articles.

VTLS Inc. will focus on five projects for 1991. First, the company plans to deliver VTLS on IBM to their customers. Second, they plan to create and distribute an Annotated OPAC, which will permit sound, image and text editing of image and text documents. Third, they want to introduce a new version of Micro-VTSL — a microcomputer-based library system for smaller collections — that will support integrated graphics and images. Fourth, the company is implementing an improved system of internal quality control that involves every aspect of their operation — product development, documentation, delivery, training, support and marketing. Lastly, they will be making major enhancements to their OPAC and the Authority Control subsystem.

VTLS President Vinod Chachra said, "We're looking forward to another year of growth, service and product development to meet the increasing demands of librarians and library users in 1991 and beyond."

FOR YOUR LIBRARY



Betty Whittaker White

THE PAST IS A KEY TO THE FUTURE: A HISTORY OF TERRA ALTA, WEST VIRGINIA AND ITS VICINITY. By Betty Whittaker White. McClain Printing Co., Parsons, WV 1990. Hardbound. Illus., Maps, indexed. 619 pgs.

**Reviewed by
Michael J. Pauley,
Historian**

This authoritative history, by a former Preston County librarian, is the first scholarly treatment of one of the state's most beautiful and interesting localities. In fact, it is the first serious historical work on Preston County since Oren F. Morton's classic work in 1914.

While this book is an absolute must for anyone wishing to do serious research on the Terra Alta region, and certainly a necessary addition to any local history collection, it is also surprisingly well written in a narrative and, at times, almost anecdotal manner. Mrs. White has obviously spent a major part of her life researching and gathering data on the Terra Alta area, and her labor is evident. This book is a complete and full treatment of the history of the town and region. The book begins with the physical and geological features of the area, aboriginal culture, and then goes on to treat in a thorough manner every era from the early settlement period, Indian and "pioneer" days to the present.

Mrs. White's book is not, however, simply a narrative history of general events and trends, though this is, of course, present. The author gives a thorough treatment to nearly every aspect of public

life; from church histories, educational development, medicine, civic organizations, cemeteries to historic buildings, great natural disasters, fires, and much more. She meticulously documents the changes to the built environment, noting when important public buildings and residences were built and when, all too often, they were destroyed.

The book also chronicles the lives of significant individuals in the area, from the great to the simply interesting. She has, for example, given us a good biography (as well as a rare photograph) of 1920s boxing heavy-weight "Fighting" Bob Martin, as well as Lorraine Peterson, a young girl who served as the model for "Sun Raisin Maid" in 1915. Both were from Terra Alta.

The book is lavishly illustrated with historic photographs and drawings, as well as maps. Mrs. White also provides an excellent bibliography, detailed chapter-by-chapter notes, and a complete index.

This is a work that, without question, will quickly become the standard reference and research tool for the history of the Terra Alta area. It also has another very pleasant bonus; it is immensely readable.

The book may be obtained for \$40.00 plus \$2.50 for postage, by sending to the author at P.O. Box 123, Terra Alta, WV 26764, and is also available through McClain Printing Co., Parsons, WV for \$44.90.

If you know of books, films, videos, art etc. about West Virginia or by West Virginians which would interest West Virginia librarians, please contact the Editor of West Virginia Libraries.



WEST VIRGINIA CULTURE TEST ANSWERS

by Steve Fessenmaier

Part 1-W.V.

1. Who is "The Right Stuff" about? Chuck Yeager and the supersonic test pilots—ending with the first Mercury astronauts.
2. What was the first Hollywood-type film made in W.V. and who was the star? "Stagestruck" (1925)—starring the most famous actress in the world then, Gloria Swanson, who left the WORLD PREMIERE of the film in New Martinsville, W.V. for her honeymoon in France.
3. James Cain, Hollywood super-writer, once came to W.V. and worked as a coal miner. What novel, turned into a movie starring Pia Zadora, did he write

based on his W.V. experiences? "The Butterfly".

4. Who was Pare Lorentz? Born in Clarksburg, W.V., he became a film critic and then was hired by FDR for whom he made the two most shown documentaries ever made and became the father of a social documentary — the films were "The River" and "The Plow That Broke The Plains".
5. Who made the W.V. documentary "In Memory of the Land and People"? Robert Gates of Charleston, W.V. This film has been shown in Congress, MOMA and all over the country — it is considered the finest film ever made about stripmining.

6. Who was the star of "Fool's Paradise"?

Jimmy Stewart, in his last movie role — it was filmed on location in Moundsville, W.V.

7. What is the film "Matewan" about?

The events that led up to the 1921 "Matewan Massacre" in Matewan, W.V. when Baldwin-Felts agents attacked the miners for creating their own union. John Sayles, the world's leading independent filmmaker, directed.

8. Who was the star of the two Appalachian classics, "Thunder Road" and "The Night of the Hunter"? Robert Mitchum

(continued on page 7)

West Virginia Culture Test Answers

(continued from page 6)

9. What is the "Night of the Hunter" about-and what W.V. author wrote the book that the film is based on?

A fake minister marries the widow of a man who had robbed a bank and hidden the money somewhere. He torments his new wife and step-children to recover the money. Davis Grubb wrote the novel that the film was based on. Considered by the AFI as one of the 100 greatest American films.

10. Brad Dourif has made a name for himself as a character actor in many recent films including "Dune" and "Mississippi Burning". What W.V. town is he from?

Huntington, W.V.

11. What Oscar did "Harlen County, U.S.A." win?

Best Documentary, 1977

12. What movie based on a Mark Twain novel was made in Harper's Ferry?

"Puddin'head Wilson" — based on Mark Twain's last novel.

13. Who directed "Tol'able David" and what was it about?

Henry King — it's about some BAD W.V. men who come over the mountains to Blue Grass, Va. (where Mr. King actually grew up), only to torment poor David who proves his manhood by defeating them. It's one of the first on-location films ever made. Made in 1921.

14. What is Appalshop and where is it located?

Appalshop is the world's leading regional media arts center, named after June Appal, the founder. They are located in Whitesburg, KY, where for more than a decade they have been producing films, videos, theater shows, records, and many other things — all about Appalachia from the Appalachian point of view.

15. Two of the most influential, as well as most appreciated films of the 1980's were "The Deer Hunter" and "Coal Miner's Daughter". Name a star from each film.

Robert DeNiro, Christopher Walken, Meryl Streep — the film ends with a credit to Gov.

Jay Rockefeller! For the second, Sissy Spacek, Tommy Lee Jones.

Part 2-General

1. Who was D.W. Griffith?

The first major creative person in the history of cinema he was the first to take cinema to be an artform equal to literature and the other arts. He changed American history with his epic about the South, "BIRTH OF A NATION". He also trained hundreds of other filmmakers in Hollywood who went on to create the "golden age of Hollywood" in the 1930's and 1940's.

2. Who directed "Citizen Kane"?

Orson Wells, who directed the film at the age of 25. This film is considered to be the ONLY work of art by a person who created it as his first attempt — and which is considered to be "the best ever created". There is no similar masterpiece in any other artform, from theater to music.

3. Who directed "Nanook of the North"?

Robert Flaherty, the father of the serious documentary. He made many other documentaries and one Hollywood — style docudrama, "Tabu", with F.W. Murau. He trained many of the people all over the world who went on to make other great documentaries.

4. What country was Charlie Chaplin born in — and name one film he starred in.

England — "Modern Times", "The Gold Rush", "City Lights", "The Great Director", "Limelight", Monsieur Verdoux", etc.

5. Who is Jean-Luc Godard?

One of the members of the French New Wave — and the most innovative person in global cinema since W.W. II. The French New Wave, unique in art history, re-defined an artform, presenting their theory that "le cinema" is the most important of all artforms. He was born in Switzerland, but has done his the most important writing and film directing in Paris.

6. How wide is a film shown at the

local movie house?

In millimeters, 35mm.

7. What does a producer do?

A producer gets the money to make a film — the director actually controls the creation of the film on location. Recently, producers have gained a great deal of control over films as "a package".

8. How old is Hollywood?

More than 100 years old.

9. What percent of ALL MOVIE ADMISSIONS IN THE WORLD ARE FOR AMERICAN PRODUCED FILMS?

More than 90%.

Note from author Steve Fesenmaier, Head of Film Services: 99.99% of all West Virginians watch films, either on T.V., cassettes, or at the movie theater. But just WHAT DO THEY KNOW about the films they love and enjoy? A similar percent ride in automobiles and use electric lights-concepts such as "mechanical literacy" and "scientific literacy" can be applied to these other very, very common realities. Given that everything from political campaigns to local products are promoted using a visual medium — T.V. — just how much do WEST VIRGINIANS KNOW about their own VISUAL CULTURE (vs. the print culture of the 19th century, and the verbal culture of pre-Gutenberg Europe)?

KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS CUT LIBRARIANS

About 50 people crowded a Kanawha County Board of Education meeting in February to protest budget cuts which would curtail library services in schools.

Eight elementary school librarians have been laid off and others cut to half-time. Several board members suggested the county cut athletic programs instead of programs with academic impact. A decision will be made in early March.

WVLA's Karen Goff is gathering information on the cuts and WVLA is planning to let the county board know of its concern over the proposed reduction of library services.

PSYCHOTRONIC MOVIES

By Steve Fesenmaier

Head of Film Services

West Virginia Library Commission

Mike Lipton, music reviewer for the *CHARLESTON GAZETTE* and editor of WV's only downtown humor magazine, *GRAFFITI*, caused an uproar in the neighborhood by writing an article called "The First Annual Psychotronic Christmas Light Tour". Readers wrote numerous letters complaining and as it turns out the thing that really bothered people was that word "psychotronic."

It comes from Mike Weldon who stole it from a 1980 Z-movie made in Chicago called "The Psychotronic Man" — he was a barber who could kill people with *just his mind!* Weldon has created a masterpiece of film scholarship — *The Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film* (1983). He also edits *Psychotronic Video* which keeps everyone current with the newest in psychotronic films as they come out. (Subscribe to this amazing mag, which gave WV's own Psychotronic Master himself, Danny Boyd, GREAT reviews for both *CHILLERS* and the unreleased *STRANGEST DREAMS* — write Mike Weldon, 151 First Ave., Dept. PV, New York, N.Y. 10003).

Many of the very greatest, top-grossing films are psychotronic — *E.T.*, *STAR WARS* and *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK* are ALL masterpieces of the genre. Many of the *WORST* films are also included — including WV's own homegrown masterpiece, *TEENAGE STRANGLER* (which was incorrectly reviewed last issue by your editor - I don't think she got into *TWIN PEAKS* of other Lynchian masterpieces, especially *BLUE VELVET*.) Over the years, some of us "weirdos" have enjoyed the miracles of Christianity and the miracles of modern technology...we grew up reading science fiction and horror stories. Now, of course, Stephen King has become the most read author since King

(continued on page 10)

ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT



1991 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REPORT

Chicago weather was not bad again but Mid-winter is not scheduled to be in Chicago for some time. It will be in San Antonio, Texas in 1992, in Denver, Colorado in 1993, in Los Angeles, California in 1994 and Cincinnati, Ohio in 1995. Of course, the annual conference will be in Atlanta this summer.

One of the highlights of the conference was actress and producer Glenn Close, honored by ALA for her support of literacy and being featured on a "READ" poster. Her new film, "Sarah, Plain and Tall" was premiered during the conference and was be shown on television on the Hallmark Hall of Fame on CBS, Sunday, February 3 at 9 pm.

Attendance at Mid-Winter was done overall but attendance by librarians was up to 5557. Although the number of exhibit booths was up to the number of exhibitors attending seemed to be down. Senator Albert Gore and Katherine Haycock, Executive Vice President of the Children's Defense Fund spoke at the President's Program. Senator Gore appealed to librarians to provide leadership and support for efforts to obtain a national network backbone to empower our citizens with access to information. He is introducing legislation again to fund the National Research and Education Network (NREN). Katherine Haycock appealed for support for our children: for their health, their care and their education.

The Library of Congress is now offering telephone reference services to the nation's libraries. Librarians and patrons may call (202) 707-5522 with their queries.

Written queries will also be accepted and answered by the Library of Congress's Telephone and Reference & Correspondence Section.

In action by the Council, Betty Blackman, Chapter Councilor from California and Betty Turrock, Rutgers University, were elected to the Executive Board. Much time was spent discussing an all-encompassing resolution on the Persian Gulf situation that condemned the United States' role without any condemnation of Saddam Hussein or the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This resolution was defeated. A resolution was adopted condemning both the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. military response and urged a diplomatic solution to the problem. (All this took place before the war started). A resolution was passed supporting the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP) in calling attention to the need for full funding for public libraries by local, state, and federal government taxing agencies in order to provide longer hours of opening for public libraries, with hours for children's rooms equal to departments servicing primarily adults, sufficient professional staff with expertise to work with children, parents, care givers, and educators, a variety of programs and outreach activities, and sufficient materials budgets to meet the need of children.

A resolution was passed strongly urging the Administration to withdraw the negative policy concerning the elimination of federally funded scholarships to minority students. A resolution concerning the charging of fees by the Library of Congress was tabled and a different resolution recommending continuing negotiations concerning services to libraries was adopted. A resolution reaffirming ALA's support of NREN and asking that all types of libraries be eligible and all states be represented and federal and other forms of assistance to state and local education and library agencies, institutions, and organizations.

Linda Crismond reported on ALA's preparation for the White House Conference. Many members stated concerns that ALA was not taking a leadership role; however, I feel that we will be receiving more information in due time from ALA.

Judy K. Rule
ALA Councilor

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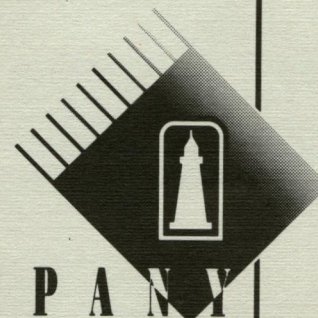
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Psychotronic Movies

(continued from page 8)

James...and much of what he has made acceptable was always THERE lurking below in less fashionable genres. PSYCHOTRONIC just cuts out all the "middle", the pabulum, the super-watered down stuff, showing mankind's true creativity.

West Virginia, as a state of extremes, has always encouraged psychotronic thinking...Davis Grubb, perhaps WV's best native author, wrote a popular book, *The Night of the Hunter*, which was turned into one of America's very greatest psychotronic masterpieces — available from us in gorgeous 16 mm. (I ran it for First Lady Rachael Worby, who kept on reacting in total disbelief to the many facts I told her about the film — see ZOOPRAXOGRAPHIC, Film Services newsletter, Summer 1991 for more on this unbelievable film, e.g., Francois Truffaut's own review.)

A perfect short experimental documentary to show with Grubb's epic is Charleston film-meister's Robert Gates' COMMUNICATION FROM WEBER. Michael Weber was actually IN a psychotronic film for Roger Corman, King of the B's, out in California, which is where he met his West Virginia wife, and how he came to move to WV. This 20 minute film was chosen by the *Village Voice* as the "best" film at the NY Gay & Lesbian Film Festival one year, and toured England, only one of two American films, as part of a film series on gays and lesbians. It also won awards at the Athens International Film Festival and is distributed by the single BEST short film company in the WORLD, Picture Start of Chicago.

PSYCHOTRONIC is a word one has to use to describe Danny Boyd's two completed feature videos — which as amazingly NOT to be found in any WV library except for the Library Commission and Raleigh County PL. GET WITH IT, WV LIBRARIANS! FOR ONLY THE PRICE OF A BOOK, ONE CAN HAVE AN AWARD WINNING 90 MINUTE MASTERPIECE WHICH STARS YOUR OWN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! Soon Troma Films should be releasing STRANGEST DREAMS, Boyd's more recent effort. Reportedly he is working on his third — he is now on sabbatical from WV State College, working part time for the WV Film Commission, trying to help other WV filmmakers get their psychotronic dreams into celluloid or tape.

One psychotronic masterpiece from California is available from us — REBEL ROUSERS, starring Jack Nicholson as a bike punk. In the film is a baby Laura Dern - the reigning psychotronic princess. (She starred in this summer's hit WILD AT HEART with her real live mom, Diane Ladd, the wife of Bruce Dern who is also in REBEL ROUSERS.) How about Pia Zadora in her first film — BUTTERFLY? In the 1920s one of America's great psychotronic writers, James Cain (best known for the books *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Mildred Pierce*), came to Huntington, WV. While he worked as a coal miner, he did research for his short book which deals with incest and a strange butterfly shaped tattoo. The film with Zadora and Stacy Keatch is relocated to Nevada, but it is still quite a

(continued on page 11)

REPORT FROM SELA CONFERENCE

OPRYLAND HOTEL, NASHVILLE, TN

The Opryland Hotel was the most amazing thing about the conference. Several of us drove from Huntington, didn't have any trouble until we got to the hotel, and then got lost. We ended up at the day care center instead of registration! There were three conferences going on at the same time and SELA Conference had approximately 2000 in attendance counting both exhibitors and attendees.

One of the highlights of the conference was the exhibits. There were several small presses there that we do not usually see at WVLA or at national conferences. We brought back several names of vendors who expressed interest in exhibiting at WVLA next year. Beulah Salyer, WVLA's marketing person, sold sweat-shirts and tote bags but she decided that the members of WVLA were a much better market than Southeastern librarians.

At the Executive Board meeting the site's committee's recommendation for sites in 1994 and 1996 were approved. Charlotte, North Carolina was selected for the October, 1994 conference and Lexington, Kentucky was selected for the October/November, 1996 conference. Charleston, W.V. was not selected mainly because of poor access by air. The site selection committee had only good things to say about their treatment in Charleston but felt that the limited airline access would make it impossible to hold the conference there.

Jim Ward is the new president of SELA and as a long-time member of that organization should of an excellent job. He was the conference chairman at Nashville and everything seemed to go very smoothly—at least to an outsider's point of view.

There was an excellent meeting on fund-raising and different methods of raising money. A librarian from Britain told of all the different ways they use to make extra money—for instance, they sell umbrellas since it rains so frequently. There was also a meeting of delegates to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Service that I found very helpful. I hope that the delegates from West Virginia can make use of some the suggestions that were offered and bring back to all of you the things we learn in Washington this summer.

This conference is a very good one to attend if you have only been to WVLA. ALA is so large anymore it is almost mind-boggling! But SELA's conference has several conference has several more vendors than we do and is small enough for one to meet other library personnel in like positions in other states.

I would urge you to consider joining and becoming active in the Southeastern Library Association. It is well worth your time and your money. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Karen Goff who is your SELA representative or me. Since Karen was ill, I represented her at the Executive Board meeting and during the conference.

Judy K. Rule
Cabell County Public Library

ALA NEWS

YASD Best Books for Young Adults Committee announces 1991 list:

The Young Adult Services Division (YASD) of the American Library Association (ALA) has released its 1991 list of 85 Best Books for Young Adults. The list, compiled January 15 during the ALA Mid-winter Meeting in Chicago, is composed of both fiction and nonfiction titles that have potential appeal to young adults and exhibit either high literacy standards or technical accuracy. The list covers a wide range of interests and reading levels.

The list includes 51 fiction and 34 nonfiction titles. It also includes 18 titles originally written for adults.

Fiction titles vary from the compelling historical fiction of Jan Hudson's *"Dawn Rider,"* to the zany family tales of J. Clarke's *"The Heroic Life of Al Capsella."* Well-known author Cynthia Voigt was

one of nine authors to receive a unanimous vote of 15-0 with her title *"On Fortune's Wheel."* New author, Annette Curtis Klause, also received a unanimous vote for her mysterious love story, *"The Silver Kiss."* The remaining unanimous choices were *"Kareem,"* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; *"Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All,"* compiled by John Agard; *"Baby of the Family,"* by Tina McElroy Ansa; *"Enter Three Witches,"* by Kate Gilmore; *"The Place My Words Are Looking For,"* by Paul B. Janeczko; *"The Boy in the Moon,"* by Ron Koertge; and *"The Road to Memphis,"* by Mildred Taylor.

There are six science fiction and fantasy books including the humorous fantasy, *"Dealing with Dragons,"* by Patricia C. Wrede; and the science fiction adventure, *"Starbridge,"* by A.C. Crispin.

Many excellent nonfiction books representative of current societal problems and events are on this year's BBYA list. They include *"Children of the Dragon,"* by the organization Human Rights in China, and Janet Bode's frightening, *"The Voices of Rape."* Also included are poetry, biographies, environmental science, and social histories.

The annotated 1991 Best Books for Young Adults list will be published in library periodicals including *"Booklist," "Journal of Youth Services,"* and *"VOYA."* A two-color brochure giving a complete list with annotations will also be available from ALA Graphics, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Cost is \$20 for 100 copies. Camera-ready copy (for printing your own brochure) also is available for \$10.

SCHOLARSHIPS

By Tom Brown

A special note on scholarships ...

It's about that time of year again when dues come due, and

you're asked to give to the scholarship fund.

In 1990 WVLA members were generous in their giving and the amounts raised allowed for four \$500 awards. These four are all currently enrolled in a graduate library program and plan on returning to West Virginia. In a subsequent issue of WV Libraries the application form will be printed and those who would like to apply will be encouraged to do so.

Meanwhile, remember that your gifts make the grants possible; they are a tangible reminder that one of the qualities of a profession is that it cares for its members.

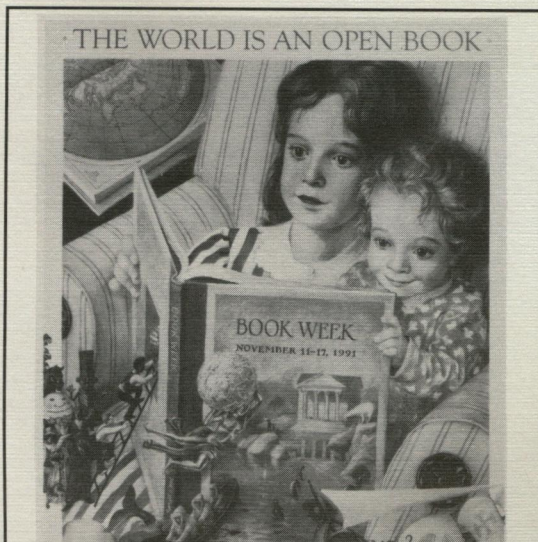
Over the next several years the Association plans to develop an endowment fund which will be devoted to continuing education and scholarships. But right now your gift makes a difference.

Psychotronic Movies

(continued from page 10)

story.

The whole world is psychotronic, as David Lynch, has shown in his work — *Eraserhead*, *Blue Velvet*, *Dune*, *Wild at Heart* and now the series *"Twin Peaks."* But, in WV, where there just isn't enough land to build a lot of malls, or enough money to create air-conditioned nightmares called suburbs, life is always very intense....just driving to and from work, down the narrow hollow, is very intense! The high levels of cancer and overall short life span makes life extremely precious in the Mountain State. The snobs of states life Utah and Minnesota, the two longest lived states, would find life here too intense....too PSYCHOTRONIC! But for those people who believe that LIFE IS MORE THAN A TRIP TO DISNEYLAND, WELL, OUR OFFICIAL STATE SPOKESMAN, LESLIE NIELSEN, ONE OF THE PRINCES OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MOVIE, GOING BACK TO THE GREATEST SCI-FI FILM OF THE FIFTIES **FORBIDDEN PLANET** (also available), says it best — "Come to WV — a welcome change!" From the theme parks, from all the hustle and bustle...



The 1991 Book Week poster has been created for the Children's Book Council by two time Caldecott Honor Book Artist Paul Zwlinsky. National Children's Book Week will be observed for the 72nd year, November 11-17, 1991. Zwlinsky's full-color 17" x 22" poster costs \$4.75. The poster is also available, with many other items, at a savings in the Council's Book Week Kit. Send a self-addressed, stamped (1 oz. first class) envelop to CBC, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, for "Book Week Brochure" details.

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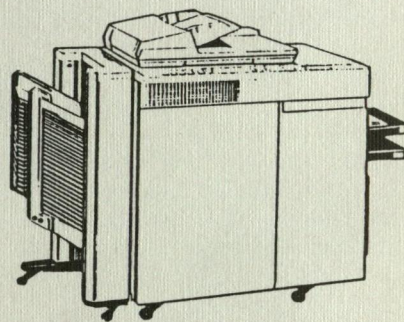
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